

Action Item

Educational Policy and Programs Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the July 31, 2001, Meeting

MINUTES

Educational Policy and Programs Committee

Meeting of July 31, 2001

Committee members present Kyo “Paul” Jhin, *Chair*
William D. Campbell
Susan Hammer
Odessa P. Johnson
Howard Welinsky
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*
Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

Other Commissioners present
Phillip J. Forhan
Robert A. Hanff
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.
Olivia K. Singh
Melinda G. Wilson

Committee members absent Evonne Seron Schulze
Kyhl Smeby

Call to order Chair Jhin reconvened the Educational Policy and Programs Committee at 12:48 p.m.

An update on the status of student transfer from California Community Colleges

Commission staff member ZoAnn Laurente presented an oral report on the status of transfer between California Community Colleges and its receiving institutions, primarily the California State University and the University of California. She said this was primarily an update with regard to extensive discussions the committee members had last June with representatives of the segments and individuals involved in the transfer function throughout the State. She also provided an overview of collaborative activities along with the Commission’s historic and continuing role in these efforts. Highlights of items discussed in the June 2000 meeting were:

1. The California Community Colleges had entered ambitious student transfer agreements with the California State University, University of California, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.
2. There had been a three-year decline in transfers of students from community colleges to baccalaureate-degree granting institutions.
3. Efforts were underway to better define what constitutes a “transfer-eligible” student.
4. Three-quarters of all student transfers occur between the community colleges and CSU; the highest priority for admission of transfers at the State University is given to upper-division students.

5. There is a need to improve data gathering about the community college transfer function and the related student outcomes.

Ms. Laurente said the key points included:

1. California Community Colleges transfers have increased at the State University and the University of California for the most recent academic year, 1999-2000.
2. The past year marked the end of the multiple-year decline with a one-year increase of transfers at both the CSU and UC (meeting the first-year annual goals in their respective MOU's).
3. Collaborative efforts to better understand and improve the transfer process are ongoing and will be guided in part by the work of the Commission's newly established Transfer Advisory Committee composed of transfer policy and process experts from the segments. A Blue Ribbon panel was suggested to conduct focused research over the next 12-18 months.

Ms. Laurente provided the committee with a background information about transfers and showed a chart depicting a comparison between transfer students compared to first-time freshmen over the last 14 to 15 years at UC. Economic factors influence and affect postsecondary enrollment which, in turn, affect transfer students. The access to both the UC and CSU is still an area of concern in terms of space being made available for transfer students.

A discussion followed on the increase in the number of transfer students and the credibility of the data provided by the institutions. Ms. Laurente also provided details on a chart showing diversification of the transfer population, access to UC and CSU and the potential roadblocks to enrollment, and strategies and solutions to address the transfer function.

Commissioner Rodriguez said that it would be helpful for staff to regularly monitor where the MOU's are between the community colleges and the various segments and provide constant reports to the Legislature as to the Commission's perspective on the progress. The Legislature could then be challenged with regard to the issues, challenges and policy questions which would help remove barriers or increase resources where appropriate. It would also be helpful to know what specific institutions benefit from having transfer students attend their campuses. He also suggested CPEC become involved in the Legislative discussions about budget dollars for low-transfer community colleges.

A general discussion followed on the issue of inclusion of all transfer students and the definition of a transfer student. Chair Arkatov reported that he, Vice Chair Chandler, and Director Fox will be visiting with Secretary Adams and will put the issue of tracking transfer students on the agenda.

Commissioner Johnson commented on the dual admissions program and asked for the Commission's support, especially with the additional counselors to be added to the community colleges.

Adjournment Hearing no public comment and having no further business, Chair Jhin adjourned the Educational Policy and Programs Committee at 1:26 p.m.
